DARK HORSE COMICS
DARK HORSE COMICS 21
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COMICS' GREATEST WORLD
MECHA: URBAN RENEWAL
CAMPBELL/FORD - PERRIN - JONES
PREDATOR: BLOOD ON TWO-WITCH MESA
LABAN - COBB

DARK HORSE #21
COMICS®

MECHA: URBAN RENEWAL 1

PART 1 OF 2
SCRIPT: EDDIE CAMPBELL & PETER FORD
PENCILS: DAVID PERRIN
INKS: ROBERT JONES
LETTERER: STEVE DUTRO
COLORS: PAMELA RAMBO

PREDATOR: BLOOD ON TWO-WITCH MESA 13

PART 2 OF 2
SCRIPT: TERRY LaBAN
ART: HOWARD COBB
LETTERER: VICKIE WILLIAMS
COLORS: LEA HERNANDEZ
SCRIPT EDITOR: JOHN WEEKS

DARK HORSE COMMENTS 25

COVER LINE ART: NELSON
COVER COLORS: CHRIS CHALENOR
EDITORS: RANDY STRADLEY, EDWARD MARTIN III
DESIGN: SCOTT TICE

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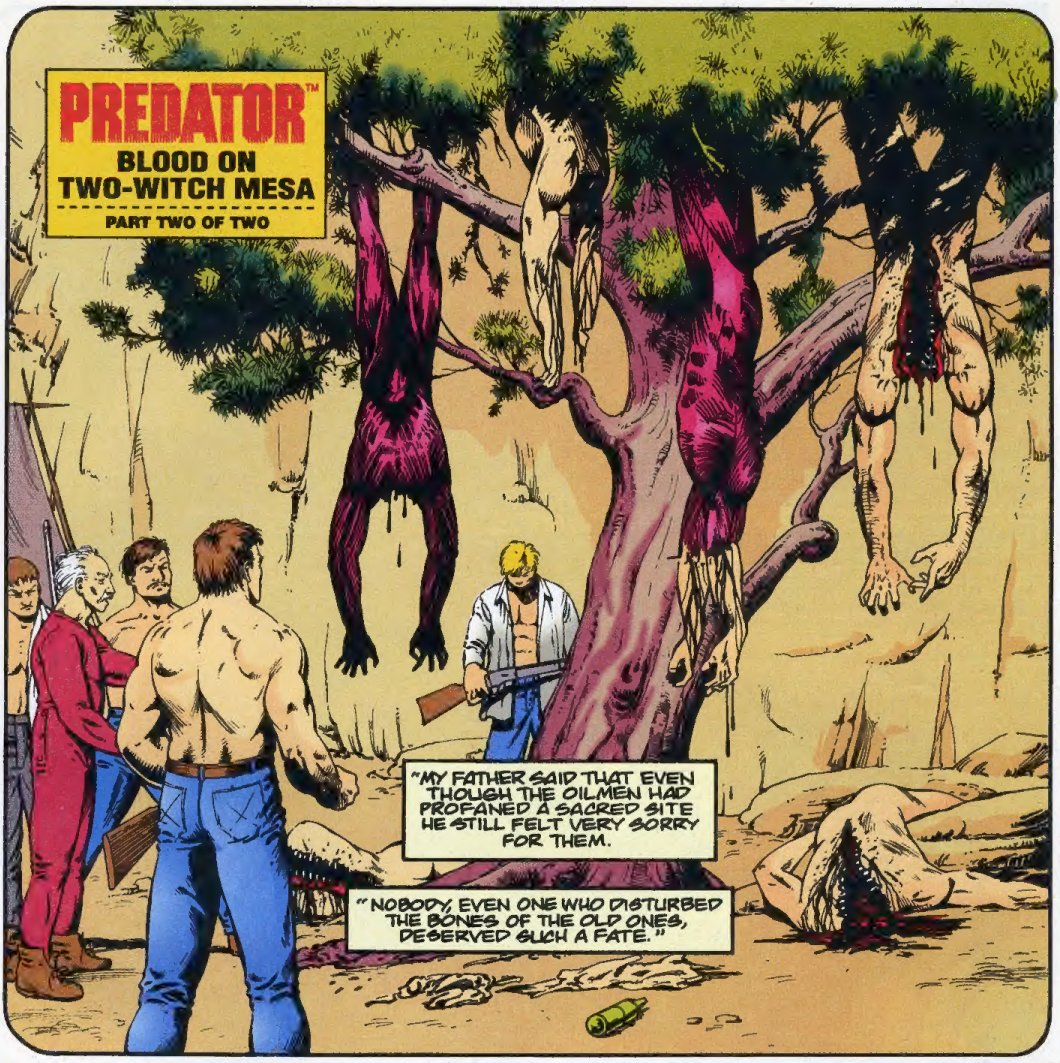
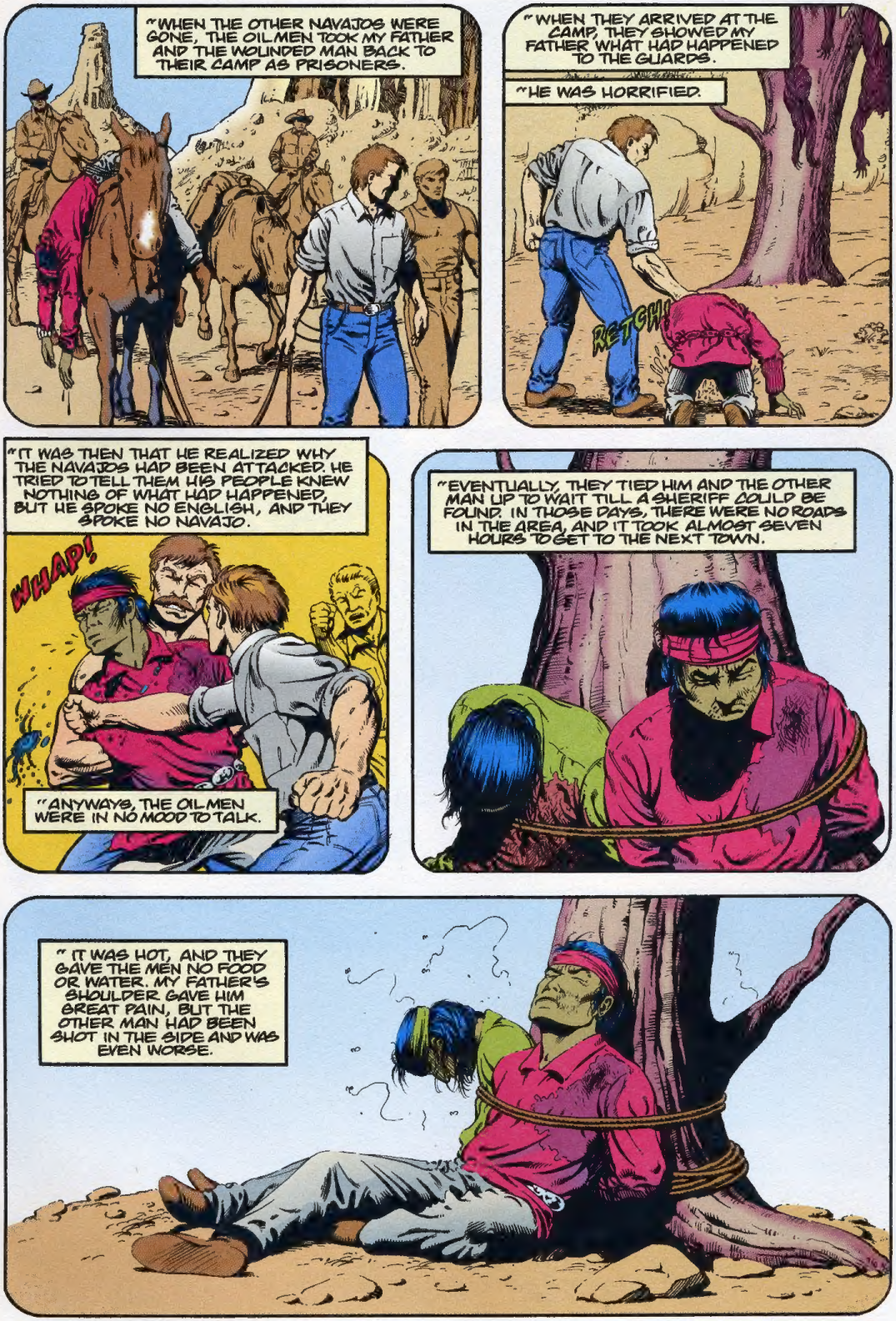

PREDATOR™
BLOOD ON TWO-WITCH MESA
PART TWO OF TWO
"MY FATHER SAID THAT EVEN THOUGH THE OILMEN HAD PROFANED A SACRED SITE HE STILL FELT VERY SORRY FOR THEM.
"NOBODY, EVEN ONE WHO DISTURBED THE BONES OF THE OLD ONES, DESERVED SUCH A FATE."

HE WAS RIGHT. THE SAME THING HAPPENED TO MY FRIENDS.
YOU'VE SEEN MUCH EVIL, GRANDSON.

AFTER ONE MEETS SUCH AN ENEMY, ONE IS FOREVER CHANGED.
YES... BUT DID YOUR FATHER ACTUALLY SEE THE MONSTER?
I WONDER IF IT WAS THE SAME ONE?

WE'LL GET TO THAT SOON. FIRST, LET ME TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED NEXT.
"THE NEXT MORNING, MY FATHER AND THE OTHER NAVAJOS, WHO STILL KNEW NOTHING ABOUT WHAT HAD HAPPENED, WERE GETTING READY TO RETURN TO THEIR HOGANS.
"SUDDENLY, SHOTS RANG OUT FROM THE SURROUNDING CLIFFS.
"MY FATHER FELL WITH A BULLET IN HIS SHOULDER.
"BY THE TIME THEY REALIZED THAT THE OILMEN WERE ATTACKING THEM, TWO MORE MEN HAD FALLEN, ONE DEAD.
BLAM! BLAM!
PING!
"THE NAVAJOS WERE UNARMED, SO THEY HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO RUN AND LEAVE MY FATHER AND THE OTHERS BEHIND.

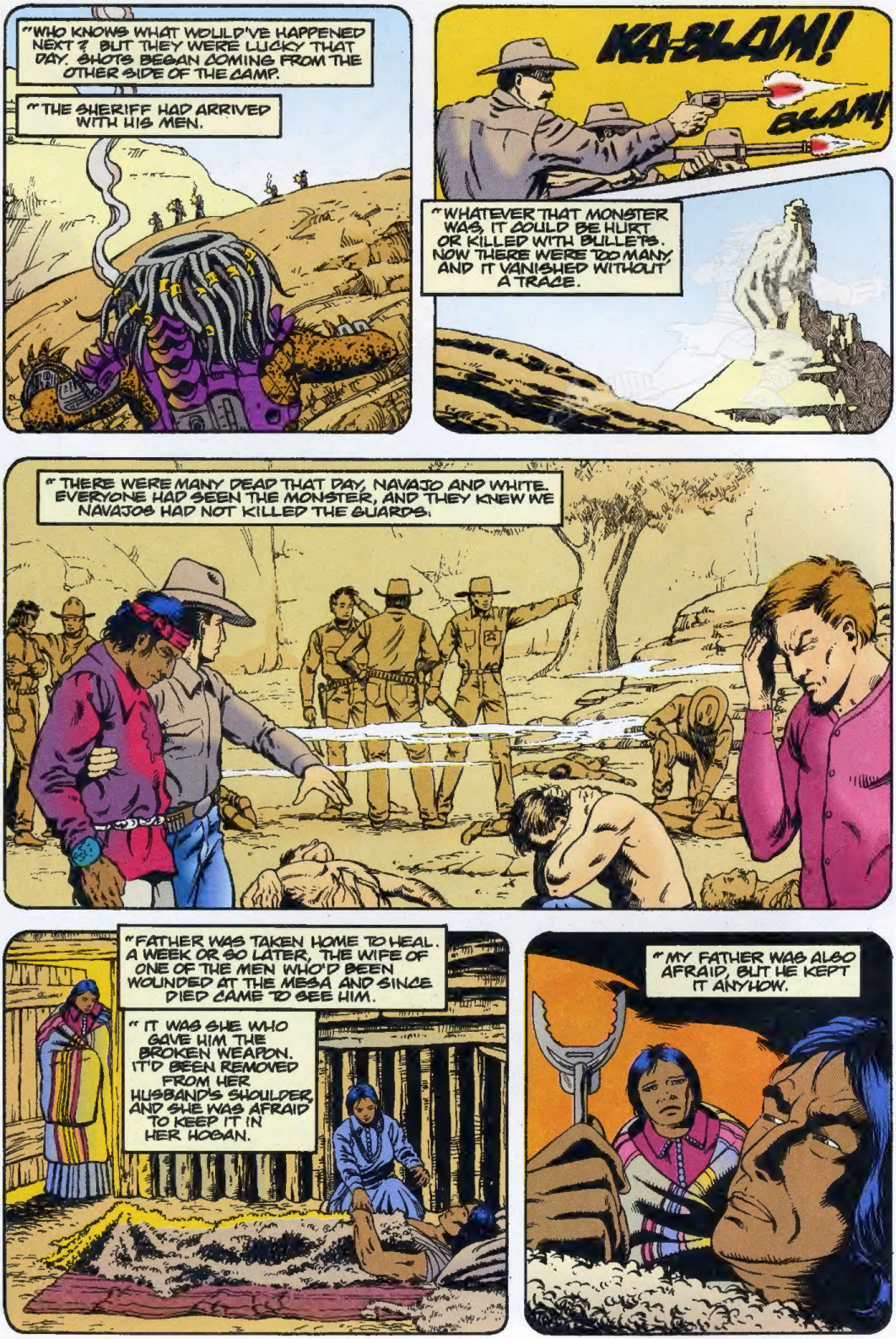

"WHEN THE OTHER NAVAJOS WERE GONE, THE OILMEN TOOK MY FATHER AND THE WOUNDED MAN BACK TO THEIR CAMP AS PRISONERS.
"WHEN THEY ARRIVED AT THE CAMP, THEY SHOWED MY FATHER WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO THE GUARDS.
"HE WAS HORRIFIED.
RETCH!
"IT WAS THEN THAT HE REALIZED WHY THE NAVAJOS HAD BEEN ATTACKED. HE TRIED TO TELL THEM HIS PEOPLE KNEW NOTHING OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED, BUT HE SPOKE NO ENGLISH, AND THEY SPOKE NO NAVAJO.
WHAP!
"ANYWAYS, THE OILMEN WERE IN NO MOOD TO TALK.
"EVENTUALLY, THEY TIED HIM AND THE OTHER MAN UP TO WAIT TILL A SHERIFF COULD BE FOUND. IN THOSE DAYS, THERE WERE NO ROADS IN THE AREA, AND IT TOOK ALMOST SEVEN HOURS TO GET TO THE NEXT TOWN.
" IT WAS HOT, AND THEY GAVE THE MEN NO FOOD OR WATER. MY FATHER'S SHOULDER GAVE HIM GREAT PAIN, BUT THE OTHER MAN HAD BEEN SHOT IN THE SIDE AND WAS EVEN WORSE.

"THE SUN SET, AND STILL THE SHERIFF HADN'T ARRIVED. THEY'D BEEN TIED UP MANY HOURS, AND IT WAS COLD, BUT THEY WERE GIVEN NO FOOD OR BLANKETS.
WHOOOSH!
"MY FATHER BARELY SLEPT THAT NIGHT, BUT WHEN HE DID DOZE, HE HAD VIVID DREAMS OF HORRIBLE THINGS.
WEEOOP!
WHOOP!
"AS DAWN BROKE, HE HEARD RIFLE FIRE AND WAR CRIES.

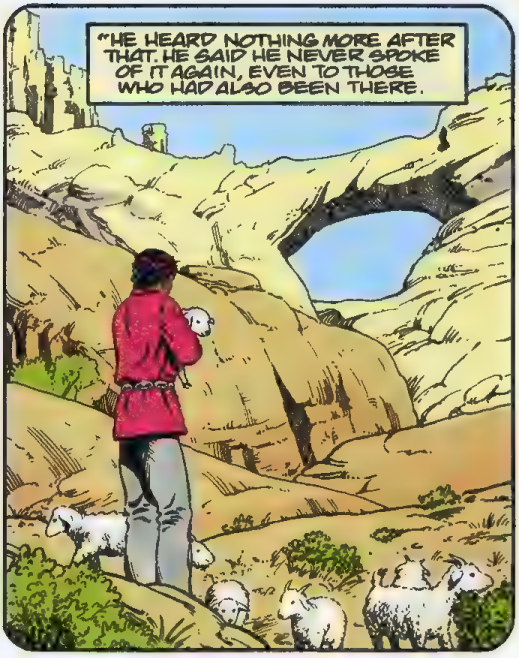
"IT WAS THE NAVAJO, COME BACK TO RESCUE THE PRISONERS AND TAKE REVENGE.
"THE OILMEN FOUGHT BACK. SOON, BULLETS WERE STRIKING ALL AROUND MY FATHER, AND HE WAS SURE HE WAS GOING TO DIE.
"AND THEN HE SAW SOMETHING THAT WAS WORSE THAN ANYTHING HE'D SEEN YET.
BZZZAAAT!

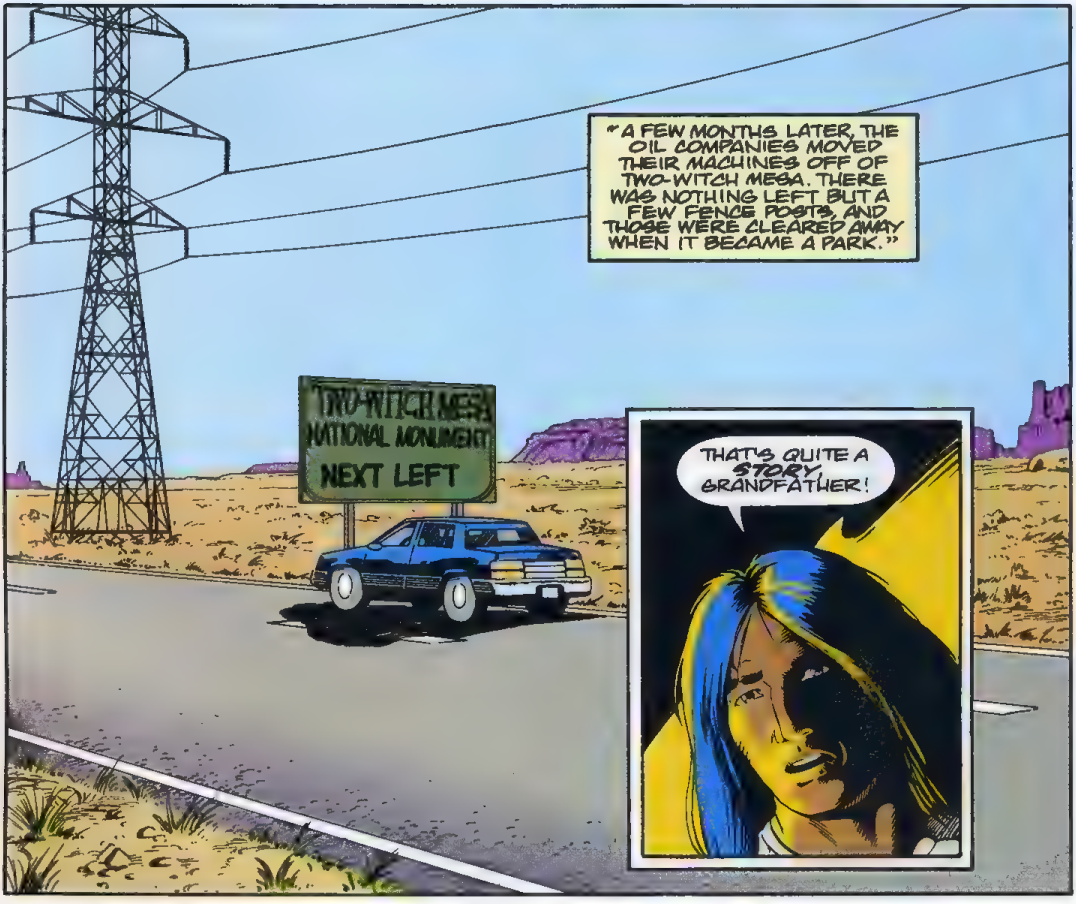
"AT FIRST, HE COULDN'T TELL WHAT IT WAS...
SCHLICK
"...ONLY WHAT IT DID.
"HE STILL THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE THE ANGRY GHOSTS OF THE OLD ONES...
BZZZAP!
"...BUT THE OLD ONES WOULD NEVER TURN ON THOSE WHO CAME TO DEFEND THEM.

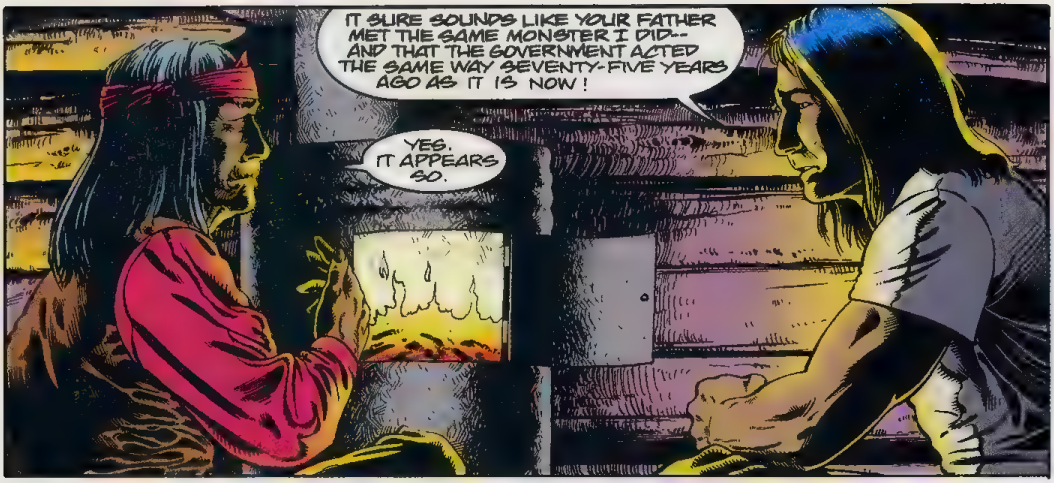
"IT WAS A MASSACRE. BOTH THE OILMEN AND THE NAVAJOS PANICKED. THEY FIRED WILDLY, SOMETIMES AT THEIR ENEMIES, SOMETIMES AT EACH OTHER.
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
"ONE OF THE BULLETS MUST HAVE HIT THE CREATURE, BECAUSE SUDDENLY, ON THE CREST OF THE RIDGE, MY FATHER SAW...
RRR
"... SOMETHING AWFUL!

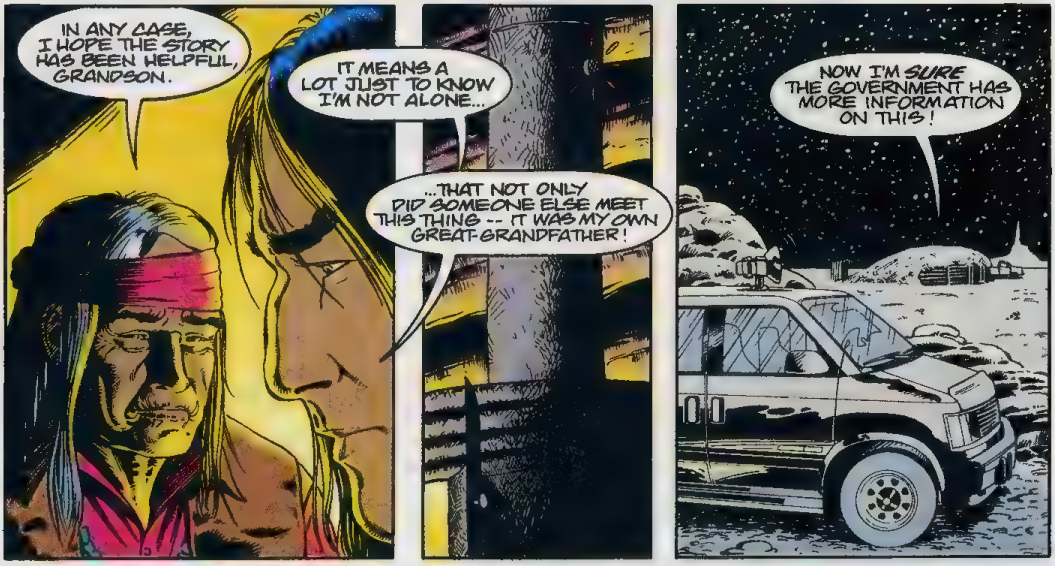

"WHO KNOWS WHAT WOULD'VE HAPPENED NEXT? BUT THEY WERE LUCKY THAT DAY. SHOTS BEGAN COMING FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CAMP.
"THE SHERIFF HAD ARRIVED WITH HIS MEN.
KA-BLAM!
BLAM!
"WHATEVER THAT MONSTER WAS, IT COULD BE HURT OR KILLED WITH BULLETS. NOW THERE WERE TOO MANY, AND IT VANISHED WITHOUT A TRACE.
"THERE WERE MANY DEAD THAT DAY, NAVAJO AND WHITE. EVERYONE HAD SEEN THE MONSTER, AND THEY KNEW WE NAVAJOS HAD NOT KILLED THE GUARDS.
"FATHER WAS TAKEN HOME TO HEAL. A WEEK OR SO LATER, THE WIFE OF ONE OF THE MEN WHO'D BEEN WOUNDED AT THE MESA AND SINCE DIED CAME TO SEE HIM.
"IT WAS SHE WHO GAVE HIM THE BROKEN WEAPON. IT'D BEEN REMOVED FROM HER HUSBAND'S SHOULDER, AND SHE WAS AFRAID TO KEEP IT IN HER HOGAN.
"MY FATHER WAS ALSO AFRAID, BUT HE KEPT IT ANYHOW.

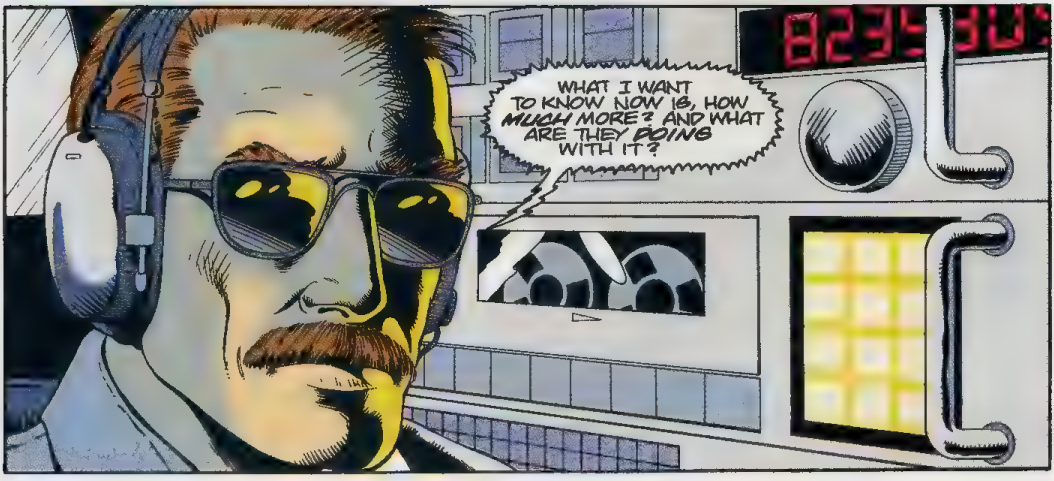
"SOON AFTER, AN AGENCY MAN CAME AND ASKED MY FATHER SOME QUESTIONS.


"HE HEARD NOTHING MORE AFTER THAT. HE SAID HE NEVER SPOKE OF IT AGAIN, EVEN TO THOSE WHO HAD ALSO BEEN THERE.


"A FEW MONTHS LATER, THE OIL COMPANIES MOVED THEIR MACHINES OFF OF TWO-WITCH MESA. THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT BUT A FEW FENCE POSTS, AND THOSE WERE CLEARED AWAY WHEN IT BECAME A PARK."
NEXT LEFT
THAT'S QUITE A STORY, GRANDFATHER!


IT SURE SOUNDS LIKE YOUR FATHER MET THE SAME MONSTER I DID-- AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT ACTED THE SAME WAY SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO AS IT IS NOW!
YES. IT APPEARS SO.

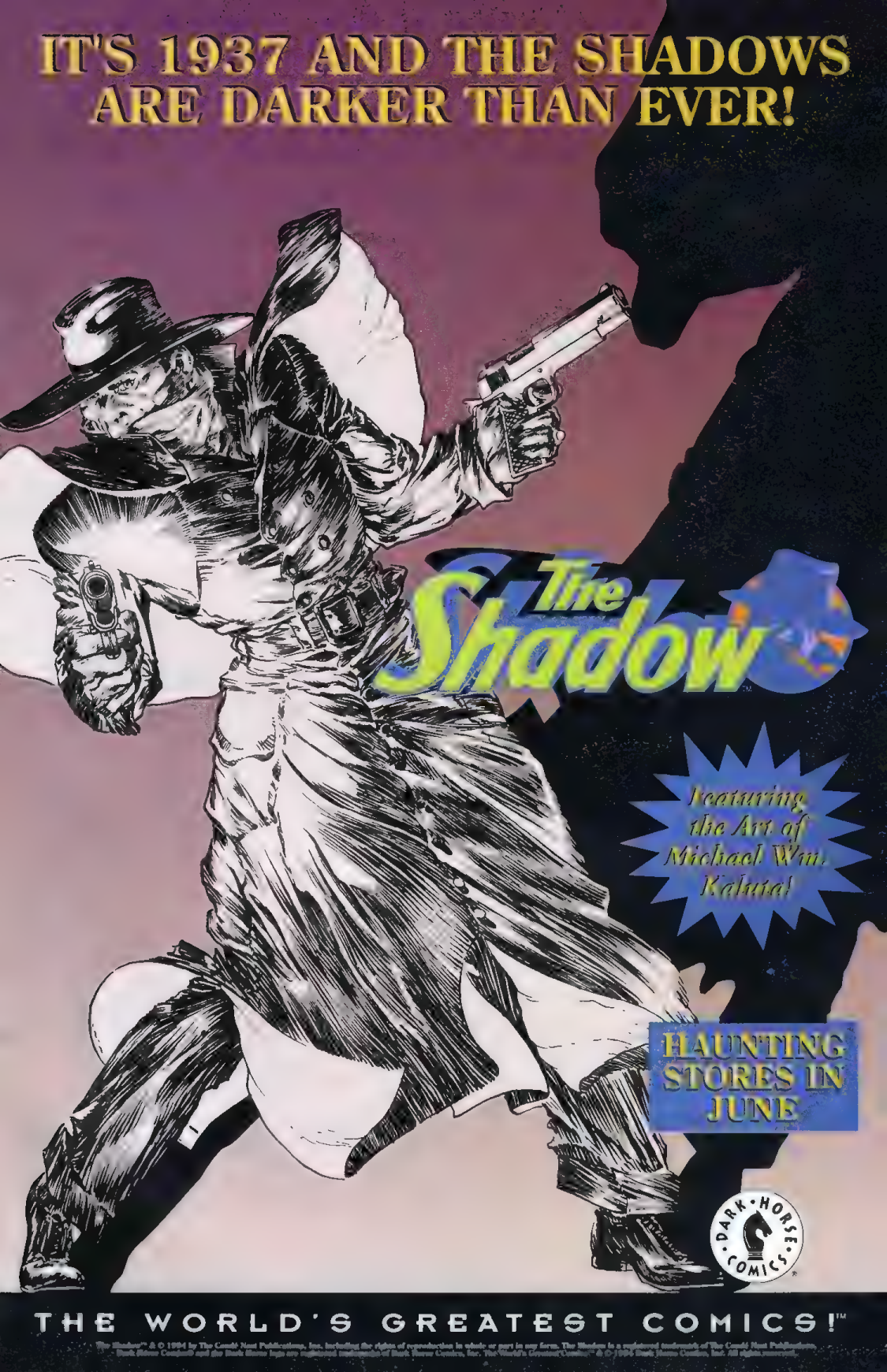

IN ANY CASE, I HOPE THE STORY HAS BEEN HELPFUL, GRANDSON.
IT MEANS A LOT JUST TO KNOW I'M NOT ALONE...
...THAT NOT ONLY DID SOMEONE ELSE MEET THIS THING -- IT WAS MY OWN GREAT-GRANDFATHER!
NOW I'M SURE THE GOVERNMENT HAS MORE INFORMATION ON THIS!


WHAT I WANT TO KNOW NOW IS, HOW MUCH MORE? AND WHAT ARE THEY DOING WITH IT?

EXCUSE ME-- ARE YOU ENOCH NAKAI ?
EXCUSE ME-- MISTER NAKAI?
EXCUSE ME!
HUH ?
OH...CAN I HELP YOU, SIR?
MR. NAKAI, I'M JOHN SMITH WITH THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT. MAY I SPEAK WITH YOU FOR A MOMENT? OUTSIDE ?
SOFT DRINKS
HOW'D YOU LIKE TO STEP UP FROM BEING A PUMP JOCKEY TO WORKING FOR UNCLE SAM AGAIN, MR. NAKAI ?
NAKAI

YOU WANT ME TO WORK FOR YOU? WHY?
WE'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU, MR. NAKAI. WE'RE VERY INTERESTED IN YOUR CASE. YOU SEEM TO HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING OF, SHALL WE SAY, "UNUSUAL VISITORS."
FACTWAY
I DON'T APPRECIATE PEOPLE LISTENING IN ON WHAT ISN'T THEIR BUSINESS!
NOW, THERE'S NO CALL TO GET ALL BENT OUT OF SHAPE. I'M ONLY HERE TO OFFER YOU A NEW JOB DOING SOMETHING THAT MIGHT BE OF PERSONAL INTEREST TO YOU. BUT IF YOU FIND YOUR PRESENT OCCUPATION TO BE... STIMULATING ENOUGH, WELL THEN...
ALL RIGHT, I'M LISTENING. WHAT DO YOU WANT?
Soda
AIR
YOU CALL ME MONDAY. WE'LL TALK FURTHER.
JOHN SM
BETTER THE DEVIL YOU KNOW...

IT'S 1937 AND THE SHADOWS ARE DARKER THAN EVER!



The Shadow

Featuring the Art of Michael Wm. Kaluta!

HAUNTING STORES IN JUNE

DARK HORSE COMICS

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMICS!™

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AVA
to kill for.
AVA
to die for.
AVA

LEGEND™

SMACK BETWEEN YOUR EYES MAY 3!

LEGEND HAS IT!

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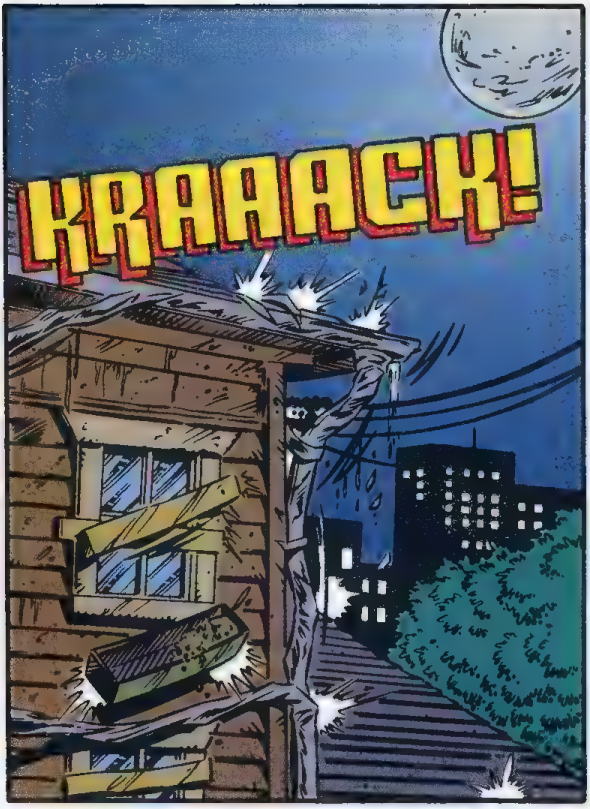
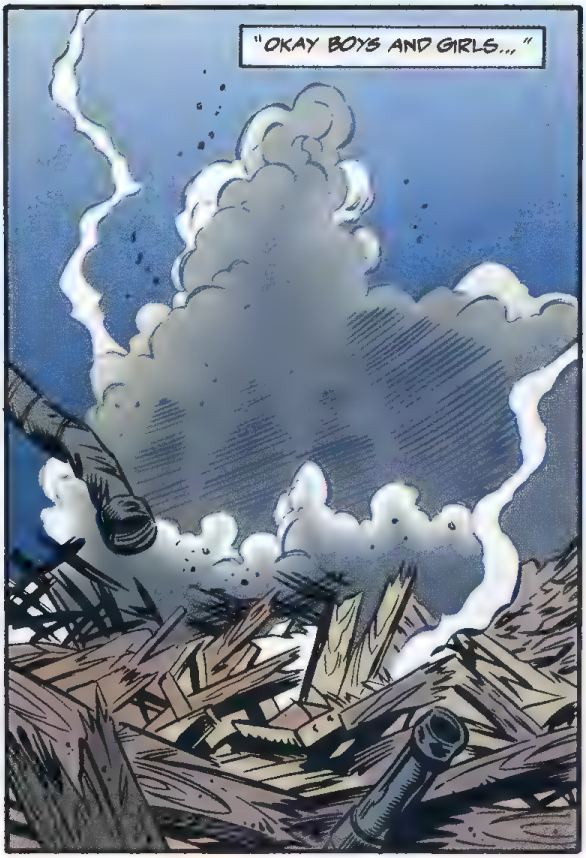
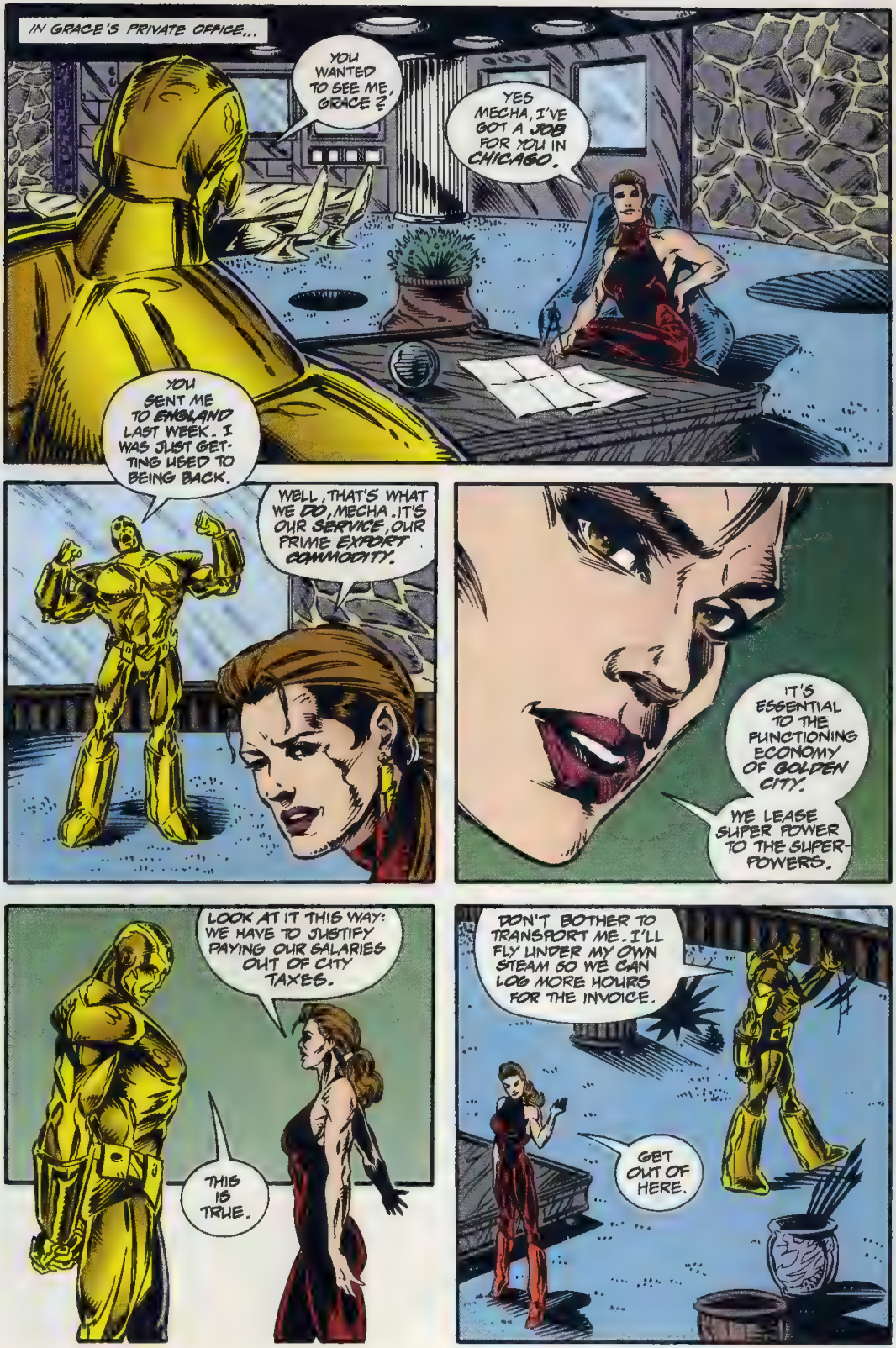
MECHA™
URBAN RENEWAL
PART ONE OF TWO

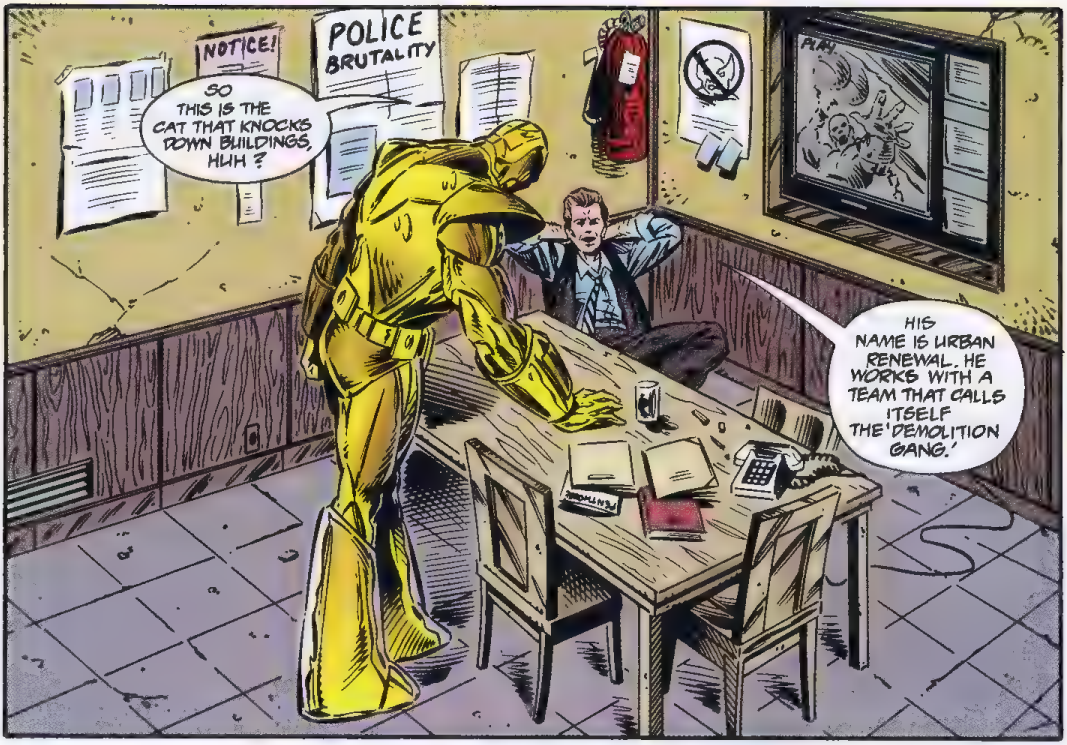

KRAAACK!

RRUMBLE


"OKAY BOYS AND GIRLS..."

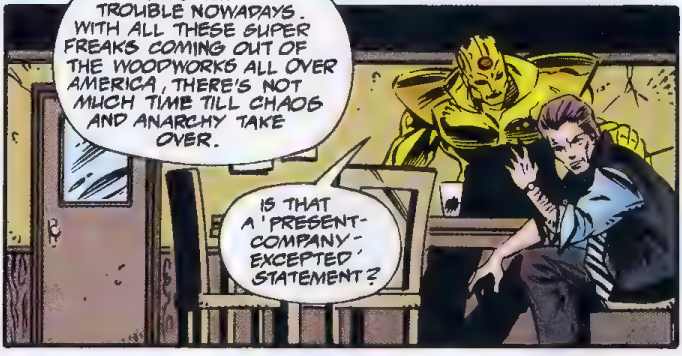
...TIME TO GO TO WORK.

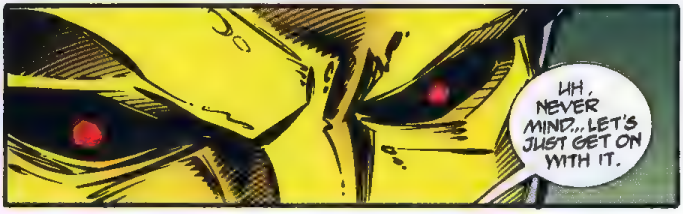

IN GRACE'S PRIVATE OFFICE...
YOU WANTED TO SEE ME, GRACE?
YES MECHA, I'VE GOT A JOB FOR YOU IN CHICAGO.
YOU SENT ME TO ENGLAND LAST WEEK. I WAS JUST GETTING USED TO BEING BACK.
WELL, THAT'S WHAT WE DO, MECHA. IT'S OUR SERVICE, OUR PRIME EXPORT COMMODITY.
IT'S ESSENTIAL TO THE FUNCTIONING ECONOMY OF GOLDEN CITY.
WE LEASE SUPER POWER TO THE SUPER-POWERS.
LOOK AT IT THIS WAY: WE HAVE TO JUSTIFY PAYING OUR SALARIES OUT OF CITY TAXES.
THIS IS TRUE.
DON'T BOTHER TO TRANSPORT ME. I'LL FLY UNDER MY OWN STEAM SO WE CAN LOG MORE HOURS FOR THE INVOICE.
GET OUT OF HERE.

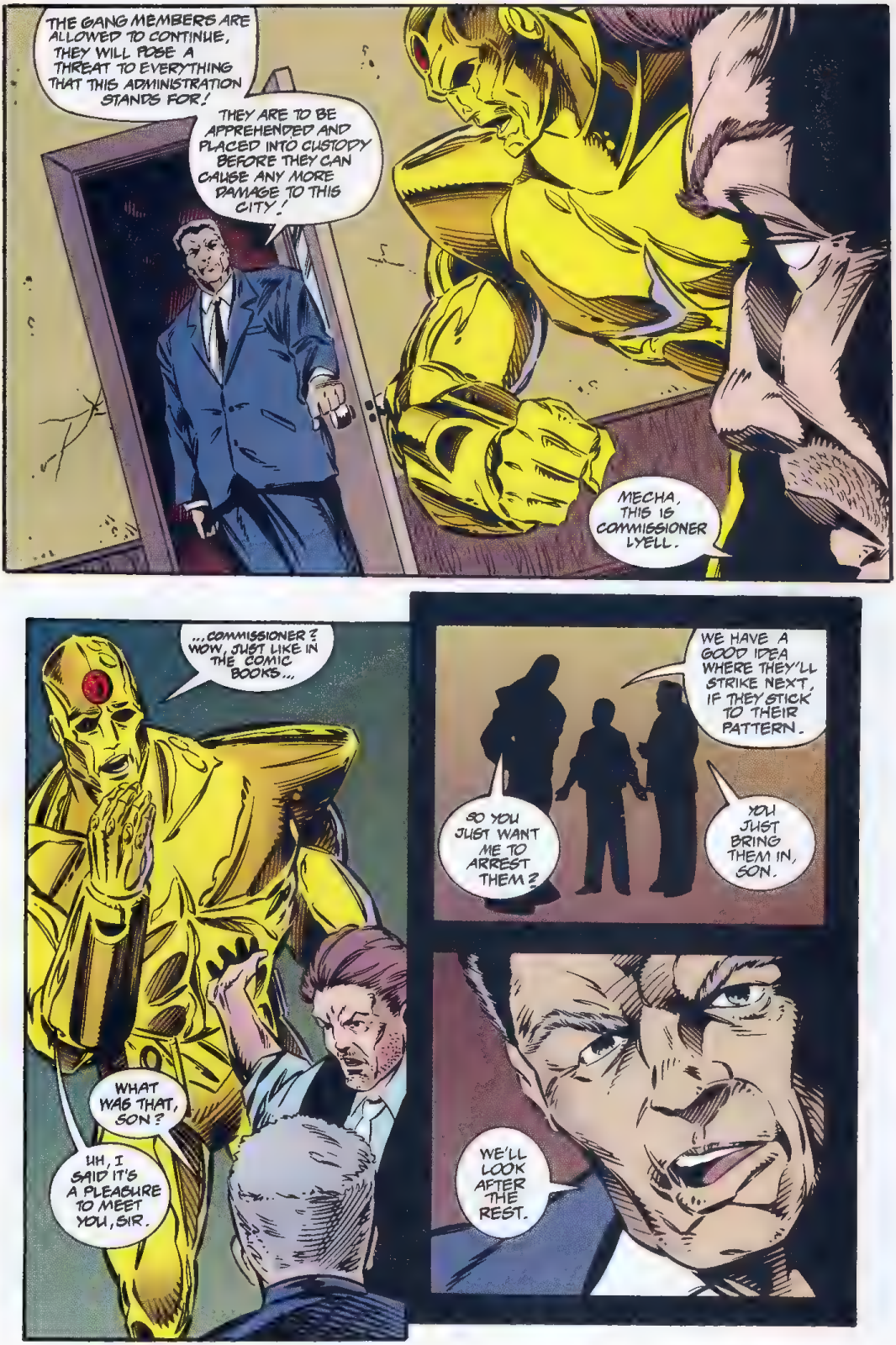

NOTICE!
POLICE BRUTALITY
SO THIS IS THE CAT THAT KNOCKS DOWN BUILDINGS, HUH?
HIS NAME IS URBAN RENEWAL. HE WORKS WITH A TEAM THAT CALLS ITSELF THE 'DEMOLITION GANG.'

'DEMOLITION GANG'? DOES THE NAME SAY IT ALL, OR IS THERE MORE TO THESE PEOPLE THAN MEETS THE EYE?

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THESE GUYS, MECHA. EACH OF URBAN RENEWAL'S TEAM IS EXTREMELY POWERFUL IN HIS OR HER OWN RIGHT.


THAT'S THE TROUBLE NOWADAYS. WITH ALL THESE SUPER FREAKS COMING OUT OF THE WOODWORKS ALL OVER AMERICA, THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME TILL CHAOS AND ANARCHY TAKE OVER.
IS THAT A 'PRESENT-COMPANY-EXCEPTED' STATEMENT?


UH, NEVER MIND... LET'S JUST GET ON WITH IT.


THE GANG MEMBERS ARE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE, THEY WILL POSE A THREAT TO EVERYTHING THAT THIS ADMINISTRATION STANDS FOR!
THEY ARE TO BE APPREHENDED AND PLACED INTO CUSTODY BEFORE THEY CAN CAUSE ANY MORE DAMAGE TO THIS CITY!
MECHA, THIS IS COMMISSIONER LYELL.
...COMMISSIONER? WOW, JUST LIKE IN THE COMIC BOOKS...
WHAT WAS THAT, SON?
UH, I SAID IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU, SIR.
WE HAVE A GOOD IDEA WHERE THEY'LL STRIKE NEXT, IF THEY STICK TO THEIR PATTERN.
SO YOU JUST WANT ME TO ARREST THEM?
YOU JUST BRING THEM IN, SON.
WE'LL LOOK AFTER THE REST.

I DIDN'T LIKE THAT LYELL GUY.
I MAY BE NEW ON THE BLOCK, BUT I CAN TELL WHEN SOMEONE ISN'T LEVELLING WITH ME.
...PEOPLE ACTUALLY LIVE HERE...?

URBAN RENEWAL WAS LAST SEEN HERE.
ACCORDING TO CAMPBELL, SEVERAL OTHER BUILDINGS ON THIS STREET MAY BE LIKELY TARGETS FOR HIM AND HIS...HEY...
...THIS ISN'T SUPPOSED TO BE HERE. THIS SHOULD JUST BE A PILE OF RUBBLE.
NOT A BAD NIGHT'S WORK, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF.
WHO THE...?
URBAN RENEWAL?
YOU LOOKING FOR ME?

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF OUR WORK?
I THOUGHT YOU DESTROYED BUILDINGS?
WELL, THAT'S THE HALF THEY WANT YOU TO KNOW.
THE BUILDINGS ARE ABOUT TO FALL DOWN. WE TURN THEM INTO GOOD HOMES.
WELL THAT'S VERY ROBIN HOOD OF YOU, BUT AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THESE BUILDINGS DON'T BELONG TO YOU.
WELL, SOMETIMES PROGRESS BLINDS US TO TRIVIAL MATTERS. QUESTION IS, WHAT'S THE SHERIFF GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?
I'M AFRAID THE SHERIFF IS GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE YOU IN.
WELL THIS IS ONE OUTLAW THAT'S NOT LEAVING SHERWOOD WITHOUT A FIGHT.
SO... LET'S PLAY BALL SHERIFF.

BERZZTKRACK
...OUCH...
GREAT. I CAME HERE TO STOP THIS GUY FROM DESTROYING BUILDINGS...
...AND WITH MY HELP WE'LL BE LEVELLING THIS WHOLE BLOCK.
GET READY TO SUCK PLASMA.
YOU SHOULD TAKE TIME OUT TO WORK ON YOUR BANTER, BUD.
AHH, STUFF A SOCK IN IT, PAL...

THINK YOU CAN DEFLECT TWO BLASTS?
HEH, HEADS UP, PAL.
HEADS UP? WHAT ARE YOU TA--
LOOKS LIKE SHERWOOD FOREST IS SAFE FOR ANOTHER DAY.
YOU DON'T THINK THAT'S GOING TO WORK TWICE, DO YOU?
NO...
DON'T BET ON IT, PAL!

OKAY BUDDY, I AM THROUGH SCREWING AROUND WITH YOU.
IS THAT A FACT?
THIS TRICK, ON THE OTHER HAND...
YES, AS A MATTER OF FACT.
YOU BROKE MY CHAIN...
LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE!

COMMENTS

10956 SE MAIN ST, MILWAUKIE, OR 97222

Howdy! Edward Martin III here, frantic yet relaxed editor. The response for **Dark Horse Comics** *#17 was overwhelming. I wish we had the extra pages to print every letter we received. I would like to personally thank Amit Jain, Link W. Herrman, Robert Knaus, Joey Marchese, and Dan Vasconcelos for their letters, which I carefully read, but cannot print due to space constraints. Please keep writing — I read everything!*

"IG-88 is pretty cool — let's see more!"

Dear D.H. People,

I just had to take some time to thank you for ***DHC*** #17. I honestly think it was the best issue to come out so far!

"Droids" was great! Thanks to Dark Horse, my interest in the *Star Wars* mythos has been renewed. IG-88 is pretty cool — let's see more! It's good to see *someone* is exploring one of the bigger parts of the *Star Wars* universe. The Droids are more important than most people realize. I look forward to the upcoming miniseries! "A+!"

"The Hunted City" was your typical Predator tale. However, the story was good enough to hold my interest. I think I know how it'll end, but I'm still interested. Decent script + classy art = good read. "A-."

My favorite part was "Alien," which was surprising, because I was getting tired of some of those Aliens stories. This reminded me of ***Aliens: Sacrifice*** (which was excellent) and it's a perfect example of a classic Aliens story (sans big guns, of course)! John Arcudi does some really good Aliens stories and Paul Mendoza's art was a perfect complement to his fine script. "A++!"

Well, thanks for your time and effort. This is one damn fine book you got here — keep it up!

Lovin' every minute of it,

Joseph Sarosy
3209 E. Valley View Ave.
West Covina, CA 91792

I give your letter an A++ as well, Joseph. Thanks for writing and I'm especially glad you enjoyed the "Aliens" story. It sure goes to show what can be done without an excess of firepower. But, of course, the occasional blaster doesn't hurt...

Dear Randy & Ed,

Dark Horse Comics #17 is awesome!

This is my first look at the new, improved ***DHC*** and I love it! Each serial installment never fails to end on an exciting cliffhanger that draws us onward, thirsty for more...

Star Wars: "Droids," hmm? Not bad, but the art is a bit too cartoony. Also, Hosk's station manager's appearance doesn't quite fit the *Star Wars* theme. Besides, is this before or after the movies?

Aliens: "Alien" is awesome! The best one in the book. The artwork is wonderful, which makes us realize the Aliens really are like giant bugs.

Predator: "The Hunted City" is a great combination of 1930s intrigue and Predator sci-fi.

Also, are we ever going to see Time Cop again? If not in his own book (which he deserves), then a ***DHC*** serial.

Keep up the good work! Well, I'd better shut up now...

Janek Dichter
20 Sacco Drive
Amherst, MA 01002

Star Wars: *"Droids" takes place well before any of the existing movies, Janek, but exactly when, I can't tell you. It's all very secret.*

You can't expect someone as dynamic as Max Walker (aka Time Cop) to be kept down for long, can you? I didn't think so. Don't miss Time Cop *— one of this summer's hottest action flicks featuring your favorite Dark Horse character played by the unequaled* Jean-Claude Van Damme*! Dark Horse will publish a special two-issue miniseries to accompany this film. The miniseries, written by Mark Verheiden, co-creator of Time Cop and illustrated by Ron Randall (***Trekker***), features a special "Creator's Cut" edition of the movie script, which is also written by Mark Verheiden. Each issue will be 32 pages of full-color, action-packed story, barely held back by splendid painted Den Beauvais covers. Bug your retailer now. These babies are due out in July and they are going to go* fast!

"the Alien on page 12 and 13 is gorgeous."

Dear Edward,

One book I look forward to reading is ***Dark Horse Comics***, and this month I was astounded by Paul Mendoza's rendering of the Aliens in the story "Alien." It's so detailed and life-like he should do another series based on the Alien's home planet, or maybe a poster. I mean, the Alien on page 12 and 13 is gorgeous.

I also have a question. I have been reading ***Predator: Bad Blood*** and I was wondering if the artist Derek Thompson is from Hawthorne, NJ, because I went to school with a Derek Thompson who was good in art class and when

I saw him last, he said he was going to be a comic-book artist.

I'd also like to see Joe Quesada do either an Aliens, Predator, or a Mask (movie adaptation?) story.

See ya next month,

Anthony Berlinski
11 North 9th Street
Hawthorne, NJ 07506

Boy that Paul Mendoza sure can draw, can't he, Anthony. Actually, fan reviews are mixed on his work, but I like it and Paul's a funny guy, so he's okay in my book. There's nothing planned for him at this moment, but I'm trying, I'm trying...

"...I can't wait for part two to arrive next month!"

Dear ***DHC***,

Three months ago I decided I had had enough! ***DHC*** just wasn't living up to the standards that I came to expect from a Dark Horse comic. Sure, some of the stories were good, but far too many of them left me feeling disappointed and wondering to myself, "Why did I even buy this... this... this *crap*?" As a result, I bid ***DHC*** farewell and scratched it from my list of must-have, monthly titles (a list, I might add, that continues to grow, and grow, and grow...).

Each month, when ***DHC*** arrived at the comic store, I would force myself to avert my eyes from fear of being tempted by the cover, purchasing the comic, reading it, and then feeling like a punk for paying $2.50 for eight pages of enjoyable reading material, and 16 pages of material that did nothing but disappoint.

When issue #17 hit the stands, I tried to fight it, but could not help giving in to temptation. When I saw my two favorite droids, from one of my all-time favorite movies, gracing the cover of ***DHC***, I had to have it! I took it home (after paying for it of course) and began reading.

I slowly savored the ***Star Wars:*** "Droids" story, getting misty-eyed and feeling nostalgic for the films that brought me so much joy in my childhood. Reading about R2-D2 and C-3PO again was a real treat. And seeing a Gamorrean Guard (Xob) and IG-88 again was really awesome. After reading the "Droids" story, I pulled out my old action figures to admire these wonderful toys from my past (I would have pulled out all the play sets and vehicles that my brother and I collected in our pre-teen years but unfortunately they were packed away and couldn't be accessed without great difficulty).

Star Wars: "Droids" was very entertaining. C-3PO was hilarious and though R2-D2's actions may have seemed suspicious to Olag Greck and his employees, I have all the faith in the world that the little guy will save the day. Finally seeing IG-88 in action after his very brief cameo in *The Empire Strikes Back* was top cool! As if you couldn't guess, I can't wait for part two to arrive next month!

To my surprise, the rest of ***DHC*** #17 was pretty good.

Aliens: "Alien" was well written and the art was spectacular! Pages 12 and 13 totally blew me away! The Alien looked awesomely menacing (do I sound like a fanboy or what?)! As if I had to say it, "I can't wait for part two to arrive next month!"

Even though I walked into the middle of **Predator:** "The Hunted City," I caught on fast and had a good time reading this story. This Predator story which took place in the early 1900s reminded me of John Byrne's Aliens story from *Previews*. Is it possible that these two species came in contact with each other on earth in our not-so-distant past? That would be an Aliens vs. Predator story that I would like to see!

Well, it looks like you guys at ***DHC*** have earned my loyalty for at least two more issues. We'll see if you can keep my interest after the "Droids" and "Aliens" story is over!

Yours truly,

Marc Johnson
1734 Shadewood Lane
San Diego, CA 92139

P.S.: Thanks for the memories!

Inspiration! *Oh Mark, you lift my heart higher than I thought it could be lifted today (and on a mere six hours of sleep, no less!). Thank you for your wonderful letter. I'm happy to hear your return to the pages of* **DHC** *was pleasant and I hope you find something in every issue that you are equally attracted to. Because you are a happy (and literate!) convert, I have a special surprise for you, our Letter of the Month winner. I dug through all my personal articles of coolness and found a set of seven original* Star Wars *stickers, which were distributed sometime in '77 or '78 with each purchase of some loaf of bread (or something like that, even* I *can't remember that far back). These are cool. Trust me. I've been to a lot of sci-fi conventions and I've never seen these anywhere. I hope you like them. Keep writing and let me know how I'm doing here on* **DHC***!*

You better stock up on ammo, because next issue of **Dark Horse Comics** *brings you* ***Aliens:*** *"Mondo Pest," a new solo adventure of Herk Mondo, that cigar-chomping, tail-kicking, Alien-Hunter extraordinaire! Also featured is the smashing conclusion to* ***Mecha:*** *"Urban Renewal." Don't miss* **Dark Horse Comics** *#22, exploding on the stands June 28, 1994!*

–Edward Martin III

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TWELVE WEEKS, TWELVE BOOKS, TWELVE BUCKS!

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Art by Jill Thompson
and
***BADGER: ZEN POP FUNNY-ANIMAL VERSION* #1**
Inked by Val Mayerik. Color cover & pencils by Steve Butler.

They're both written by MIKE BARON, and that should be reason enough to get 'em!

MAKE THE BREAK

SHIPPING IN JULY!

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FINISH LINE

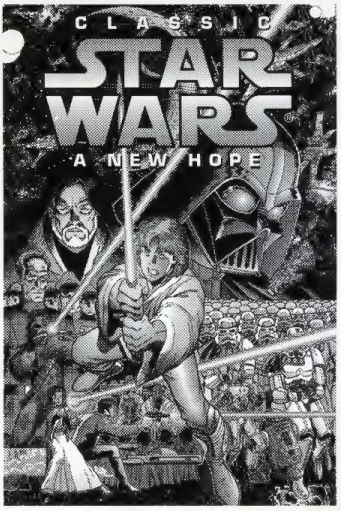
1977 George Lucas managed to strike a profound chord with dedicated science-fiction buffs, neophytes, and virtually everyone else in the world. With *Star Wars*, he brought to the screen something no one had ever seen before: a big-budget science-fiction movie with state-of-the-art special effects, that still managed to present a compelling story, and most importantly remain true to the quintessentially pulpish roots of science fiction. For many fans that saw *Star Wars* in the theater dozens of times, the movie conveyed an almost spiritual message of redemption and hope for a world becoming increasingly more difficult to live in.

Concurrent with the release of *Star Wars* in movie theaters came the beginning of Marvel Comics' regular series of *Star Wars* comics that would ultimately run for more than nine years. Soon after the release of *Return of the Jedi* in 1983, Lucas made it known that he would most likely never complete his originally planned nine-movie epic. By the end of the Marvel run, general fan interest in *Star Wars* had waned.

1991. Dark Horse published the first issue of *Star Wars: Dark Empire*, an epic telling of events following *Return of the Jedi*. The series met with more positive fan response than Dark Horse could ever have dreamed of. It was obvious that interest in *Star Wars* hadn't disappeared; it had simply been dormant, awaiting some spark of excitement to light a new round of creativity and fan activity.

1994. With the excitement churning in anticipation of Lucas' renewed plans for filming the first three chapters in his *Star Wars* saga beginning in 1997, Dark Horse is planning on upping the ante substantially with both a number of original stories building upon established *Star Wars* continuity, as well as a continuation of our series of high-quality reprints of previously published *Star Wars* material. The exploits of some of the early Jedi Knights begun in the recently completed *Tales of the Jedi* will continue in *Dark Lords of the Sith*, two consecutive six-issue series, the first starting in October. Another new *Star Wars* project on tap for late 1994 is *Dark Empire II*, a continuation of the events from the *Dark Empire* series.

Classic Star Wars: The Early Adventures is a new series of reformatted and colored newspaper strip reprints beginning in August, featuring the Russ Manning strips that appeared from 1979 to 1980. Other *Classic Star Wars* reprints for 1994 will include brilliantly recolored adaptations of the three *Star Wars* movies, originally published by Marvel in the '70s and '80s.



Dark Horse doesn't plan on letting fan interest in *Star Wars* sag between now and 1997. The projects mentioned above are just the tip o' the proverbial iceberg. And in the immortal and downright catchy words of one of our many fans who's discovered that Dark Horse is producing the highest quality *Star Wars* comics ever: *Thank the Force for Dark Horse!*

— Bob Cooper

More good news for *Star Wars* fans! A new national *Star Wars* fan magazine, *The Star Wars Insider*, will be available quarterly on newsstands nationwide starting in August 1994. For subscription information, please call 1-800-TRUE FAN (1-800-878-3326).

MAY CHECKLIST

SHIPPING MAY 3
- ❑ APPLESEED DATABOOK #2
- ❑ CLASSIC STAR WARS #19
- ❑ HAMMER OF GOD: BUTCH #1
- ❑ JOE R. LANSDALE'S BY BIZARRE HANDS #2
- ❑ RACK & PAIN #3
- ❑ SIN CITY: A DAME TO KILL FOR #6
- ❑ X #4

SHIPPING MAY 10
- ❑ ALIENS: STRONGHOLD #1
- ❑ DARK HORSE PRESENTS #85
- ❑ JOHN BYRNE'S NEXT MEN #25: POWER #3
- ❑ OUT OF THE VORTEX #8

SHIPPING MAY 17
- ❑ ANDREW VACHSS' UNDERGROUND #4
- ❑ BARB WIRE #2
- ❑ DARK HORSE INSIDER #31
- ❑ GRENDEL TALES: THE DEVIL IN OUR MIDST #1
- ❑ HELLBOY: SEED OF DESTRUCTION #3
- ❑ INDIANA JONES AND THE ARMS OF GOLD #4
- ❑ PREDATOR: BAD BLOOD #4
- ❑ STAR WARS: DROIDS #2

SHIPPING MAY 24
- ❑ BUBBLEGUM CRISIS: GRAND MAL #3
- ❑ CARAVAN KIDD PART 3 #1
- ❑ DANGER UNLIMITED #4
- ❑ ENEMY #1
- ❑ MARTHA WASHINGTON GOES TO WAR #1
- ❑ MEZZ GALACTIC TOUR

SHIPPING MAY 31
- ❑ ALIEN^3 COLD-CAST FIGURE KIT
- ❑ ALIENS/PREDATOR: THE DEADLIEST OF THE SPECIES #6
- ❑ CATALYST: AGENTS OF CHANGE #4
- ❑ DARK HORSE COMICS #21
- ❑ HELLHOUNDS: PANZER COPS #4
- ❑ JOHN BYRNE'S NEXT MEN: PARALLEL (TRADE PAPERBACK COLLECTION)
- ❑ JONNY DEMON #1
- ❑ WHITE LIKE SHE #1

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